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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Arctic)

REPORT

SUBJECT Port of Arkhangelsk

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. At 1500 hours on 27 June 1953, [] ship enroute to Arkhangelsk was three or four nautical miles south of Tri Ostrova (N 67-06. E 41-22). A two-stack destroyer [] approached and overtook [] ship in slightly hazy weather. The destroyer passed abeam, about 200 or 250 meters away.

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2. The destroyer, which was in sight for about 30 minutes, had a slightly raked bow; and a raised foredeck, which sloped down to the upper deck aft of the bridge. There was one gun turret on the forecastle and another gun on a structure which projected forward from the bridge. There were several antiaircraft guns on the multi-stepped bridge. A round and slightly raked forward stack with a narrow dark smoke hood was located aft of the bridge. The after stack was slightly lower than the forward stack. A pole mast with a yard was located between the bridge and the forward stack; on the superstructure forward of the after stack there was another pole mast with a gaff from which the Soviet naval ensign was displayed. One gun turret was located on the destroyer island on the fantail, and there was another gun turret on the afterdeck. Each turret-gun had an estimated caliber of between 100 and 120 millimeters. A torpedo mount was located between the two stacks. There were six light antiaircraft machine guns and four or five twin machine guns on the bridge near the two stacks or on the destroyer island. No depth charge gear was observed. There was, however, some canvas-covered equipment near the rail at the sides of the destroyer island.

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3. As the destroyer headed south, about 20 men wearing white caps were observed on the bridge. No one was observed on deck. When [] ship dipped its flag, a sailor rushed aft to return the dip. [] the order to return the dip [] was given over the ship's loudspeaker.

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4. At about 1600 hours on 27 June 1953, five naval vessels were sighted about five or six nautical miles ahead of [] ship. Two of the vessels were of the same type as the destroyer described above. The three other vessels had a considerably lower freeboard, two small thin stacks, and only one mast. The group steered a course east by northeast at a speed of between 10 and 15 knots. 25X1
5. On 28 June 1953, five PT boats coming from seaward and proceeding at high speed passed [] ship about 300 meters to starboard as it lay at anchor waiting to enter Arkhangelsk. The PT boats had an estimated length of between 30 and 40 meters, a boldly raked bow, and a square vertical stern. A mast with a signal yard was located aft of the glazed (sic) low wheelhouse, and a long and low superstructure extended from the wheelhouse to about four meters from the stern. The vessels were armed with a small gun without a protective shield on the foredeck, a similar gun on the fantail, and a twin machine gun at the after edge of the bridge. No torpedo tubes were observed. They flew a large flag with a hammer and sickle emblem from the signal yard. 25X1
6. On 29 June 1953 [] ship tied up to loading wharf No. 23 which was a wooden stage capable of berthing three ships of between 2,000 and 3,000 DWT each. It was the third loading berth on the east shore from seaward, four or five kilometers downstream from Arkhangelsk. The Soviet longshoremen had a 30-minute midday break, and they ate their noon meals in a low wooden building. [] on the first day they received cabbage rolls, on the second day fried sausage, and on the third day cabbage soup with boiled meat. A half loaf of brown bread was served with each meal. For overtime work, they were given a quarter of a pound of bright-red sausage. Some longshoremen who spoke broken German stated that the food situation had improved in Arkhangelsk. They were not informed on events occurring outside the town district. 25X1
7. All crew members were granted shore leave daily until midnight. [] the American movie "Tarzan in New York" in a theater which was crowded with fairly well-dressed individuals. The theater building was a former cathedral; it was painted white and was decorated with red propaganda streamers. [] 25X1
[] 25X1
[] The Soviets were very hospitable. 25X1
8. The town extended along the shore for about four kilometers and consisted mainly of wooden buildings. A broad sandy beach with many bathers was located at the northern end of the town. A park with many large cement-cast statues was located between this beach and the main road. There were three large shops in which everything was sold including bread and fur coats. The shops, which were rather crowded, were located on the main road north of the theater. 25X1
9. An athletic field was located on the east side of the main road just north of the bathing beach and in front of several white three-story barracks. [] about 200 soldiers in green shorts and shirts engaged in athletics. Groups of three or four soldiers wearing clean uniforms with red-bordered epulettes were observed on the streets. Many soldiers including even quite young soldiers, wore decorations. [] the decoration most frequently worn was a blue Soviet star with a red inscription. 25X1
10. [] twin-engined aircraft taking off and landing southwest of Arkhangelsk and [] an airfield was located there. The aircraft had low wings, one engine on each wing, a long-nosed fuselage, and an almost triangular tail unit. 25X1

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